DEVELOPMENT **(1954) Department**

M1 **SERIES.**

G.O. No.	5068
Dated	1 11 1941

[Despatch Abstract.]

FOREST : [illegible] : FUEL COUPES : CHITTOOR AND NORTH ARCOT DISTRICTS : SALE : IRREGULARITY : DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST OFFICERS : REPORT.

T.K.T.N.R. TATACHARI, B.A.,B.L.,M.L.A.,
Advocate.

Chittoor,
12-10-1946.

Sir,

A number of Govt. forest coupes in this district and North Arcot have been for the last 3 years or so given away at low prices rejecting higher offers in audctions. On some compaaints I interviewed the District Forest Officer, Chittoor, to ascertain what the matter was.

I learn that there was a G.O. in November 1943 which states that coupes should be sold to the highest bidders in auction; but he says that to keep down the sale prices of fuel both locally and at Madras the following procedure was ordered departmentally by successive Conservators; i.e. that prices for each coupe~~s would be p~~ were fixed at resonable rates per acre. Then the coupes would be put to auction. If the bids were much higher than those fixed the sales would be cancelled and tenders were called for. If even the tenders proved high the D.F.Os were to nogitiate sales with contractors preferably with old contractors and deal them out to them at prices as near as possible to the price fixed. There are cases of coupes having thus been given away at one third to one fourth of the original auction rates. One could understand giving away of cupes in the above manner to facilitate supply at Madras at reasonable rates but indiscriminate giving away of all coupes has resulted in loss to Government and hardship to other legitimate bidders.

The D.F.O who is an Indian here followed this year as his predecessor did the previous years the Conservator's orders and I incidentally learn that he is going to be let down for having done so in some cases. It seems he himself suggested letting go all the coupes to the highest bidders in auction but the Conservator did not agree and ordered calling for tenders and giving away the coupes to those who had offered prices near to the fixed prices. It may be that the orders were considered to be in the interest of Madras supply. But it seems to me that it is only one aspect of the question. The loss to the Government does not appear to have been considered at all. My enquiry shows that some tons of thousands have been thus lost from every district. The loss in in the district may be compared with those of the two adjacent districts Vellore and East and North. Papers for the last 2 to 3 years may please be called for from these districts and the question of actual loss may be examined.

A coupe in Gudiyattam area which was given away by the D.F.O in accordance with the orders of the Conservator is considered likley to lead to some civil suit and the wrong man is being found fault with. Please call for papers for the last two years and deal with the Conservators who were responsible for such instructions to the D.F.Os and deal with the larger question of loss.

Yours sincerely,

T.K.T.N.R. TATACHARI

To

The Hon. Sri B. Veeraswami Garu,
Minister for Forest,
Government of Madras,
Fort St. George,
MADRAS.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
Development Department.

Memorandum No. 88569-B.III/46.8 dated the 29th July 1947.

Sub: FORESTS - Leases - Fuel coupes - Chittoor and North Arcot Districts - Sale.

It has been alleged that during the last three years several forest coupes in the Chittoor and Vellore East forest divisions were given away by the Forest Department for contractors at low prices or negotiated terms, thereby causing loss of revenue to the Government. According to the report of the Conservator, Salem Circle (copy enclosed), it is found that there has been a loss of about Rs. 2.11 lakhs in these two divisions during the last three years. The Government are not satisfied with the explanation given by the Conservator for this loss and desire that an enquiry should be conducted as to the extent of the loss, the persons responsible for it and the action to be taken against them. For this purposes, connected records for the three years in the offices of the District Forest Officers concerned and the Conservator of Forests, Salem Circle, will have to be thoroughly examined by a competent and experienced auditor. The Examiner of Local Fund Accounts is requested to state urgently whether he can depute a suitable auditor of the status of an Assistant Examiner for the purpose.

K.G. MENON
Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
Development Department.

Letter No. 88569-B.III/46. Dated, the 29th July 1947

From -
K.G. Menon, Esq., I.C.S.,
Joint Secretary to Government.

To
Sri T.S.T.N.R. Tatachari, B.A.,B.L., M.L.A.,
Advocate, CHITTOOR.

Sir,

Sub: FORESTS - Leases - Fuel coupes - Chittoor and North Arcot districts.
Ref: Your letter dated the 12th October 1946.

I am directed to state that the Government have taken necessary action on your letter. I am to add that no forest coupes will hereafter be ordinarily leased by private treaty on negotiated terms and that the rule will be to sell them in open auction.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
K.G. MENON
Joint Secretary to Government.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
Development Department.

Memorandum No.88569-C2/46 dated 1st November 1947.

Sub: FORESTS - Leases - Fuel coupes - Chittoor and North Arcot Districts - Sale - Irregularity - Disciplinary action against officers - Dropped.

Ref: From the Chief Conservator of Forests, Ref: No. 16795/46-C2 dated the 31st March 1947.
From the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts, L.f. 2865 dated the 5th August 1945.

The Government do not propose to pursue the matter.

K.G. MENON
Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Conservator of Forests.
To the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts, through the Finance Department.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

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The draft Memo may now issue. After issue the papers may be recorded.

Y.S.M./1411.47

G.O. No. 5068 (Ms) dated the 1st November 1947

Abstract

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FOREST - Leases - Fuel coupes - Chittoor and North Arcot Districts - Sale - Irregularity - Disciplinary action against Officers - Dropped.

/True copy/

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office, Egmore.